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The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 22 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our previous official letters, the most recent of which was dated 14 October 2018 (S/2018/916), concerning the crimes that are being committed by the illegitimate "international coalition" led by the United States, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

On the evening of 19 October 2018, the illegitimate international coalition led by the United States of America committed a heinous crime against dozens of Syrian civilians. Coalition aircraft deliberately targeted homes in the villages of Susah and Albu Badran in the south-eastern countryside of Dayr al-Zawr governorate, killing 62 civilians, mostly women and children, and injuring an unknown number of others, some of whom are in critical condition.

In its previous letters, the most recent of which was dated 14 October 2018 (S/2018/916), the Syrian Arab Republic noted that this criminal alliance has stepped up its savage attacks against innocent civilians and has been systematically using weapons of mass destruction and weapons that have indiscriminate effects, such as internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs, to bombard residential neighbourhoods in Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo and Hasakah governorates. Moreover, in those same letters, the Syrian Arab Republic has called upon the Security Council to take immediate action to halt those crimes and prevent their recurrence.

The crime that was committed yesterday in the villages of Susah and Albu Badran is a war crime and a crime against humanity, and demonstrates, once again, the extent to which the States of that coalition disregard international law and international humanitarian law. It also strips those States of any moral standing that

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they might be able call upon in order to lecture others about the need to protect civilian lives and respect human rights instruments and the peremptory norms of humanitarian law when conducting military operations, which the United States claims are directed against terrorists. That alliance kills innocent civilians only; it is not battling, as it claims, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other terrorists.

This heinous crime confirms yet again to the entire world that the goal the United States wishes to achieve from the illicit operations conducted by this alliance is not to combat terrorism, but rather to kill as many Syrian people possible. Day after day, events confirm that the United States supports by all available means the alliance's continued operation and presence in Syria, in clear disregard of all humanitarian values that humanity has pledged to protect. This crime is but another in the series of war crimes and crimes against humanity that this shameful coalition has been committing against Syrian civilians in order to further an agenda that is blatantly aimed at undermining the future and the unity and territorial integrity the Syrian Arab Republic and impeding efforts to solve the crisis in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to prevent such attacks. In addition to conducting an independent and transparent international investigation into those crimes, the Council must condemn them and take immediate action to stop them and punish the aggressors. Moreover, the Security Council must put an end to the hostile and illegal presence in Syrian territory of United States forces and other foreign forces and ensure that the States of the alliance comply with the Charter of the United Nations, in which crimes of aggression, interference in the internal affairs of States and undermining the territorial integrity of Member States are emphatically rejected.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16, 34, 38, and 74, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative